

# Byron L. Dorgan

U.S. Senate " 713 Hart Building " Washington, D.C. 20510

E-mail: [senator@dorgan.senate.gov](mailto:senator@dorgan.senate.gov) " Internet Web Page: <http://dorgan.senate.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday

August 1, 2000

CONTACT: Dana McCallum  
or Barry E. Piatt

PHONE: 202-224-2551

## **DORGAN PUSHES FOR INCREASED BORDER PATROL STAFF AND RESOURCES**

(NORTHGATE, N.D.) -- U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan is using his position as ranking member of a key Senate appropriations subcommittee to push for increased resources and manpower at border crossings along the U.S.-Canada border. Dorgan stopped at the Northgate Port-of-Entry Monday night to meet with local Customs officials and review operations at one of the state's 15 one-man, non-24-hour ports along the northern border. The Senator met with Steve Daugherty, the Acting Director of North Dakota Customs, who provided an overview of port activity and statistics on the number of cars using the port.

"There are numerous concerns about the security and continued operation of our border crossing stations, particularly those that are not open 24 hours a day," said Dorgan, who is working to secure additional resources as the ranking member of the Senate Treasury and General Government Appropriations Committee. "We need sufficient resources to ensure the continued flow of commercial traffic across our border while maintaining the integrity of border security."

This year, Dorgan included language in the Treasury and General Government Appropriations bill that urges Customs to allocate more resources and staffing for the Northern Border. Dorgan noted that the U.S.-Canada border extends nearly 4,000 miles but only has 300 border agents, while the southern border of the U.S. extends just 2,000 miles and has 8,000 agents. "The need for additional staff and resources is obvious," he said.

The legislation has been approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee and is expected to come before the full Senate when Congress reconvenes in September, Dorgan said.

While new automated technology can increase security at non-24 hour border stations which are now "closed" by leaving an orange cone in the middle of the road, Dorgan said it is important to ensure such technology has no negative effects to commercial traffic and results in no staff reductions. Last year Dorgan won congressional approval to ensure that new technology did not have those results at border stations. His visit here was also to check on the implementation of that requirement.

-- END --